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(k) *Mineral* means oil, gas, and sulphur; it includes sand and gravel and salt used to facilitate the development and production of oil, gas, or sulphur.

(l) *Authorized officer* means any person authorized by law or by delegation of authority to or within MMS to perform the duties described in this part.

[44 FR 38276, June 29, 1979. Redesignated and amended at 47 FR 47006, 47007, Oct. 22, 1982; 54 FR 2049, Jan. 18, 1989]

§ 256.7 Cross references.

(a) For Minerals Management Service regulations governing exploration, development and production on leases, see 30 CFR parts 250 and 270.

(b) For MMS regulations governing the appeal of an order or decision issued under the regulations in this part, see 30 CFR part 290.

(c) For multiple use conflicts, see the Environmental Protection Agency listing of ocean dumping sites—40 CFR part 228.

(d) For related National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs see:

(1) Marine sanctuary regulations, 15 CFR part 922;

(2) Fishermen's Contingency Fund, 50 CFR part 296;

(3) Coastal Energy Impact Program, 15 CFR part 931;

(e) For Coast Guard regulations on the oil spill liability of vessels and operators, see 33 CFR parts 132, 135, and 136.

(f) For Coast Guard regulations on port access routes, see 33 CFR part 164.

(g) For compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, see 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508.

(h) For Department of Transportation regulations on offshore pipeline facilities, see 49 CFR part 195.

(i) For Department of Defense regulations on military activities on offshore areas, see 32 CFR part 252.

[44 FR 38276, June 29, 1979. Redesignated at 47 FR 47006, Oct. 22, 1982, and amended at 54 FR 50617, Dec. 8, 1989; 55 FR 32908, Aug. 13, 1990; 62 FR 27955, May 22, 1997]

§ 256.8 Leasing maps and diagrams.

(a) Any area of the OCS which has been appropriately platted as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, is subject to lease for any mineral not in-

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cluded in a subsisting lease issued under the act or meeting the requirements of subsection (a) of section 6 of the Act. Before any lease is offered or issued an area may be (1) withdrawn from disposition pursuant to section 12(a) of the Act, or (2) designated as an area or part of an area restricted from operation under section 12(d) of the Act.

(b) The MMS shall prepare leasing maps and official protraction diagrams of areas of the OCS. The areas included in each mineral lease shall be in accordance with the appropriate leasing map or official protraction diagram.

§ 256.10 Information to States.

(a) The information covered in this section is prepared by or directly obtained by the Director. Such information is typically not considered to be proprietary or privileged, with the primary exception of specific indications of interest in an area by industry received in response to a Call for Information issued by the Secretary. This information and all other proprietary and privileged information obtained by or under the control of the Minerals Management Service may be released only in accordance with the regulations in 30 CFR parts 250, 251, and 252.

(b) The Director shall prepare an index to OCS information (see 30 CFR 252.5). The index shall list all relevant actual or proposed programs, plans, reports, environmental impact statements, nominations information, environmental study reports, lease sale information and any similar type of relevant information including, modifications, comments and revisions, prepared by or directly obtained by the Director under the act. The index shall be sent on a regular basis to affected States and, upon request, it shall be sent to any affected local government. The public shall be informed of the availability of the index.

(c) Upon request, the Director shall transmit to affected States, local governments or the public, a copy of any information listed in the index which is subject to the control of the MMS in accordance with the requirements and subject to the limitations of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and regulations implementing said Act,

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and the regulations contained in 43 CFR part 2, except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) Upon request, the Director shall provide relative indications of interest in areas as well as any comments filed in response to a Call for Information for a proposed sale. However, no information transmitted shall identify any particular area with the name of any particular party so as not to compromise the competitive position of any participants in the process of indicating interest.

[44 FR 38276, June 29, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 25970, June 16, 1982. Redesignated and amended at 47 FR 47006, 47007, Oct. 22, 1982]

§ 256.11 Helium.

(a) Each lease issued or continued under these regulations shall be subject to a reservation by the United States, under section 12(f) of the Act, of the ownership of and the right to extract helium from all gas produced from the leased area.

(b) In case the United States elects to take the helium, the lessee shall deliver all gas containing helium, or the portion of gas desired, to the United States at any point on the leased area or at an onshore processing facility. Delivery shall be made in the manner required by the United States to such plants or reduction works as the United States may provide.

(c) The extraction of helium shall not cause a reduction in the value of the lessee's gas or any other loss for which he is not reasonably compensated, except for the value of the helium extracted. The United States shall determine the amount of reasonable compensation. The United States shall have the right to erect, maintain and operate on the leased area any and all reduction works and other equipment necessary for the extraction of helium. The extraction of helium shall not cause substantial delays in the delivery of natural gas produced to the purchaser of that gas.

§ 256.12 Supplemental sales.

(a) The Secretary may conduct a supplemental sale in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) Supplemental sales shall be governed by the regulations in this part, except § 256.22.

(c) Supplemental sales shall be limited to blocks falling into one or more of the following categories:

(1) Blocks for which bids were rejected during the calendar year preceding the year of the supplemental sale in which they are reoffered or blocks for which bids were rejected in the same calendar year as the supplemental sale in which they are reoffered, except that for the initial supplemental sale only blocks for which bids were rejected after October 1, 1987, may be reoffered. If, after the initial supplemental sale, a supplemental sale is not held annually for any reason, the relevant period for determining blocks eligible for a subsequent supplemental sale may be extended to include rejected bid blocks which were eligible for the supplemental sale not held.

(2) Blocks for which the high bid was forfeited during the calendar year preceding the year of the supplemental sale in which they are reoffered or blocks for which high bids were forfeited in the same calendar year as the supplemental sale in which they are reoffered, except that for the initial supplemental sale only blocks for which high bids were forfeited after October 1, 1987, may be reoffered. If, after the initial supplemental sale, a supplemental sale is not held annually for any reason, the relevant period for determining blocks eligible for a subsequent sale may be extended to include forfeited bid blocks which were eligible for the supplemental sale not held.

(3) Development blocks. Development blocks (including blocks susceptible to drainage) are blocks which are located on the same general geologic structure as an existing lease having a well with indicated hydrocarbons; the reservoir may or may not be interpreted to extend on to the block.

(d) Supplemental sales shall not include blocks in the Central or Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

(e) The Director may disclose the classification of blocks in supplemental sales as development blocks.

[53 FR 29886, Aug. 9, 1988]